

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 05491 281648Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 INT-05
DOE-15 SOE-02 /108 W
-----013924 281932Z /46

R 281550Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7077
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: STRIKE AND LOCKOUT IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG METAL
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY CONTINUE

REF: BONN 4650

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SUMMARY: THE STRIKE AND LOCKOUT IN THE NORTH BADEN-
WUERTTEMBERG METAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY COVERING
OVER 230,000 WORKERS IS CONTINUING. EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE
A COMPROMISE IN NEW NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN REGIONAL
BARGAINING TEAMS OF THE METALWORKERS UNION AND THE
EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS HAD
NO CONCRETE RESULT. NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE RESUMED ON

MARCH 28. PLANTS AND FACTORIES OUTSIDE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG, PARTICULARLY AUTOMOBILE PRODUCERS, WHICH LARGELY DEPEND UPON SUPPLIES FROM FIRMS AFFECTED BY THE STRIKE OR LOCKOUT HAVE ANNOUNCED INTRODUCTION OF PART-TIME WORK OR EVEN A TEMPORARY STOPPAGE OF PLANT OPERATIONS FOR THE END OF MARCH. END SUMMARY.

1. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATED ON CLAUSES TO GUARANTEE EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE LEVELS IN THE CASE OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES WHICH WOULD RESULT IN LAY-OFFS OR THE TRANSFER OF WORKERS INTO LOWER PAID JOBS. WHILE DIFFERENCES ON SOME PARTS OF THESE CLAUSES MAY HAVE BEEN NARROWED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE EASTER WEEK-END, OTHER ITEMS STILL REMAIN CONTROVERSIAL. THE WAGE ISSUE HAS NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED, BUT OBSERVERS EXPECT THAT AN AGREEMENT PROBABLY WILL BE ACHIEVED AT A LEVEL SLIGHTLY OVER 5 PERCENT AS SOON AS THE WAGE AND EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE CLAUSES IN THE CASE OF INTRODUCTION OF TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS HAVE BEEN SOLVED.

2. THE STRIKE AND LOCKOUT IN THE NORTH BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG METAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY NOW IN THE THIRD WEEK DIRECTLY INVOLVES OVER 230,000 WORKERS. THE STRIKE IS INCREASINGLY AFFECTING PRODUCTION OPERATIONS IN THE METAL INDUSTRY OUTSIDE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG. MOST AUTOMOBILE PRODUCERS, SUCH AS FORD, VOLKSWAGEN, AUDI, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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BMW, HAVE ANNOUNCED INTRODUCTION OF PART-TIME WORK BY THE END OF THIS WEEK. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE REGIONAL METAL EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION IN NORTH BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG, HEINZ DUERR, ANNOUNCED THAT ONE THIRD OF THE FRG METAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY WOULD BE AFFECTED BY TEMPORARY STOPPAGES OF PRODUCTION UNLESS THE CONFLICT WAS SETTLED BY THE END OF THIS WEEK.

3. THE METALWORKERS UNION IS REPORTED TO HAVE SPENT DM 40 MILLION FOR STRIKE BENEFITS BY THE END OF LAST WEEK. AT THE PRESENT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENTS, EACH WORKING DAY LOST BY A STRIKE OR LOCKOUT WILL COST THE UNION AN ESTIMATED DM 8 MILLION IN BENEFIT PAYMENTS.

4. BOTH PARTIES HAVE REJECTED ANY GOVERNMENT MEDIATION, AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET INDICATED AN INTENTION TO INTERVENE.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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